

COSTA (FORMERLY WHITBREAD) BOOK AWARDS

Shortlists 1995 - present

2016

Costa First Novel Award

The Good Guy by Susan Beale
My Name is Leon by Kit de Waal
The Words in My Hand by Guinevere Glasfurd
Golden Hill by Francis Spufford (winner)

Costa Novel Award

Days Without End by Sebastian Barry (winner)
This Must Be The Place by Maggie O'Farrell
The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry
The Gustav Sonata by Rose Tremain

Costa Biography Award

Dadland by Keggie Carew (winner)
Elizabeth: The Forgotten Years by John Guy
The Return by Hisham Matar
I'm Not With the Band by Sylvia Patterson

Costa Poetry Award

Sunshine by Melissa Lee-Houghton
Falling Awake by Alice Oswald (winner)
Say Something Back by Denise Riley
Let Them Eat Chaos by Kate Tempest

Costa Children's Book Award

The Bombs That Brought Us Together by Brian Conaghan (winner)
Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence
The Monstrous Child by Francesca Simon
Time Travelling with a Hamster by Ross Welford

2015

Costa First Novel Award

Spill Simmer Falter Wither by Sara Baume
The Girl in the Red Coat by Kate Hamer
The Loney by Andrew Michael Hurley (winner)
Things We Have In Common by Tasha Kavanagh

Costa Novel Award

A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson (winner)
The Green Road by Anne Enright
A Place Called Winter by Patrick Gale
At Hawthorn Time by Melissa Harrison

Costa Biography Award

The Story of Alice: Lewis Carroll and the Secret History of Wonderland by Robert Douglas-Fairhurst
The House by the Lake by Thomas Harding
John Aubrey: My Own Life by Ruth Scurr
The Invention of Nature: The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt, The Lost Hero of Science by Andrea Wulf (winner)

Costa Poetry Award

Physical by Andrew McMillan
The Observances by Kate Miller
40 Sonnets by Don Paterson (winner)

Talking Dead by Neil Rollinson

Costa Children's Book Award

The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge (winner)

Sophie Someone by Hayley Long

An Island of Our Own by Sally Nicholls

Jessica's Ghost by Andrew Norriss

2014

Costa First Novel Award

A Song for Issy Bradley by Carys Bray

Academy Street by Mary Costello

Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healey (winner)

Chop Chop by Simon Wroe

Costa Novel Award

The Lives of Others by Neel Mukherjee

House of Ashes by Monique Roffey

How to be both by Ali Smith (winner)

Nora Webster by Colm Toibin

Costa Biography Award

Roy Jenkins: A Well-Rounded Life by John Campbell

The Iceberg: A Memoir by Marion Coutts

H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald (winner)

Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery by Henry Marsh

Costa Poetry Award

The Whole & Rain-domed Universe by Colette Bryce

My Family and Other Superheroes by Jonathan Edwards (winner)

A Double Sorrow: Troilus and Criseyde by Lavinia Greenlaw

The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion by Kei Miller

Costa Children's Book Award

Running Girl by Simon Mason

Listen to the Moon by Michael Morpurgo

Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders (winner)

The Ghosts of Heaven by Marcus Sedgwick

2013

Costa First Novel Award

Idiopathy by Sam Byers

Meeting the English by Kate Clanchy

The Shock of the Fally by Nathan Filer (winner)

Marriage Material by Sathnam Sanghera

Costa Novel Award

Life After Life by Kate Atkinson (winner)

Unexpected Lessons in Love by Bernardine Bishop

Instructions for a Heatwave by Maggie O'Farrell

All the Birds, Singing by Evie Wyld

Costa Biography Award

Empire Antarctica: Ice, Silence and Emperor Penguins by Gavin Francis

Hanns and Rudolf: The German Jew and the Hunt for the Kommandant of Auschwitz by Thomas Harding

The Pike: Gabriele d'Annunzio, Poet, Seducer and Preacher of War by Lucy Hughes-Hallett (winner)

The Trip to Echo Spring: Why Writers Drink by Olivia Laing

Costa Poetry Award

Dante: The Divine Comedy by Clive James

Division Street by Helen Mort

Hill of Doors by Robin Robertson

Drysalter by Michael Symmons Roberts (winner)

Costa Children's Book Award

Alex, the Dog and the Unopenable Door by Ross Montgomery

The Hanged Man Rises by Sarah Naughton

Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse by Chris Riddell (winner)

Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein

2012

Costa First Novel Award

The Notable Brain of Maximilian Ponder by J W Ironmonger

Snake Ropes by Jess Richards

The Innocents by Francesca Segal (winner)

The Bellwether Revivals by Benjamin Wood

Costa Novel Award

Bring Up The Bodies by Hilary Mantel (winner)

Life! Death! Prizes! by Stephen May

The Heart Broke In by James Meek

Days of the Bagnold Summer by Joff Winterhart

Costa Biography Award

Patrick Leigh-Fermor: An Adventure by Artemis Cooper

The Crocodile by the Door: The story of a house, a farm and a family by Selina Guinness

Serving Victoria: Life in the Royal Household by Kate Hubbard

Dotter of Her Father's Eyes by Mary M Talbot and Bryan Talbot (winner)

Costa Poetry Award

Bee Journal by Sean Borodale

The World's Two Smallest Humans by Julia Copus

People Who Like Meatballs by Selima Hill

The Overhaul by Kathleen Jamie (winner)

Costa Children's Book Award

Maggot Moon by Sally Gardner (winner)

The Seeing by Diana Hendry

What's Up With Jody Barton? by Hayley Long

A Boy and A Bear in A Boat by Dave Shelton

2011

Costa First Novel Award

City of Bohane by Kevin Barry

The Last Hundred Days by Patrick McGuinness

Tiny Sunbirds Far Away by Christie Watson (winner)

Pao by Kerry Young

Costa Novel Award

The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes

A Summer of Drowning by John Burnside

Pure by Andrew Miller (winner)

My Dear I Wanted to Tell You by Louisa Young

Costa Biography Award

Thin Paths: Journeys in and around a Mountain Village by Julia Blackburn

Henry's Demons: Living with Schizophrenia (A Father and Son's Story) by Patrick and Henry Cockburn

Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas by Matthew Hollis (winner)

Charles Dickens: A Life by Claire Tomalin

Costa Poetry Award

The Bees by Carol Ann Duffy (winner)

Night by David Harsent

Fiere by Jackie Kay

November by Sean O'Brien

Costa Children's Book Award

Flip by Martyn Bedford
The Unforgotten Coat by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Small Change for Stuart by Lissa Evans
Blood Red Road by Moira Young (winner)

2010

Costa First Novel Award

Witness the Night by Kishwar Desai (winner)
Coconut Unlimited by Nikesha Shukla
Not Quite White by Simon Thirsk
The Temple Goers by Aatish Taseer

Costa Novel Award

Whatever you love by Louise Doughty
The Blasphemer by Nigel Farndale
Skippy Dies by Paul Murray
The Hand That First Held Mine by Maggie O'Farrell (winner)

Costa Biography Award

How to live: A life of Montaigne in twenty questions and one attempt at an answer by Sarah Bakewell
My Father's Fortune: A Life by Michael Frayn
The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal (winner)

Costa Poetry Award

Standard Midland by Roy Fisher
The Wrecking Light by Robin Robertson
Of Mutability by Jo Shapcott (winner)
New Light for the Old Dark by Sam Willetts

Costa Children's Book Award

Flyaway by Lucy Christopher
Annexed by Sharon Dogar
Bartimaeus: The Ring of Solomon by Jonathan Stroud
Out of Shadows by Jason Wallace (winner)

2009

Costa First Novel Award

The Finest Type of English Womanhood by Rachel Heath
John the Revelator by Peter Murphy
Beauty by Raphael Selbourne (winner)
The Girl with Glass Feet by Ali Shaw

Costa Novel Award

Family Album by Penelope Lively
Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel
The Elephant Keeper by Christopher Nicholson
Brooklyn by Colm Tóibín (winner)

Costa Biography Award

The Strangest Man: The Hidden Life of Paul Dirac, Quantum Genius by Graham Farmelo (winner)
The Music Room by William Fiennes
Coda by Simon Gray
Dancing to the Precipice by Caroline Moorehead

Costa Poetry Award

Angels over Elsinore by Clive James
One Eye'd Leigh by Katherine Kilalea
Darwin: A Life in Poems by Ruth Padel
A Scattering by Christopher Reid (winner)

Costa Children's Book Award

Solace of the Road by Siobhan Dowd
Troubadour by Mary Hoffman
The Ask and the Answer (Chaos Walking, Book Two) by Patrick Ness (winner)
Guantanamo Boy by Anna Perera

2008**Costa First Novel Award**

The Behaviour of Moths by Poppy Adams
The Outcast by Sadie Jones (winner)
Inside the Whale by Jennie Rooney
Child 44 by Tom Rob Smith

Costa Novel Award

The Secret Scripture by Sebastian Barry (winner)
The Other Hand by Chris Cleave
A Partisan's Daughter by Louis de Bernières
Trauma by Patrick McGrath

Costa Biography Award

Somewhere Towards the End by Diana Athill (winner)
Bloomsbury Ballerina by Judith Mackrell
If You Don't Know Me By Now by Sathnam Sanghera
Chagall by Jackie Wullschlager

Costa Poetry Award

For All We Know by Ciaran Carson
The Broken Word by Adam Foulds (winner)
Sunday at the Skin Launderette by Kathryn Simmonds
Salvation Jane by Greta Stoddart

Costa Children's Book Award

Ostrich Boys by Keith Gray
The Carbon Diaries 2015 by Saci Lloyd
Just Henry by Michelle Magorian (winner)
Broken Soup by Jenny Valentine

2007**Costa First Novel Award**

A Golden Age by Tahmima Anam
Gifted by Nikita Lalwani
What Was Lost by Catherine O'Flynn (winner)
Mosquito by Roma Tearne

Costa Novel Award

Skin Lane by Neil Bartlett
Day by AL Kennedy (winner)
Death of a Murderer by Rupert Thomson
The Road Home by Rose Tremain

Costa Biography Award

Rudolf Nureyev by Julie Kavanagh
Agent Zigzag by Ben Macintyre
Young Stalin by Simon Sebag Montefiore (winner)
Fatty Batter by Michael Simkins

Costa Poetry Award

The Speed of Dark by Ian Duhig
The Space of Joy by John Fuller
Look We Have Coming to Dover! by Daljit Nagra
Tilt by Jean Sprackland (winner)

Costa Children's Book Award

The Bower Bird by Ann Kelley (winner)
Crusade by Elizabeth Laird
What I Was by Meg Rosoff
Blood Red Snow White by Marcus Sedgwick

2006**Costa First Novel Award**

The Meaning of Night by Michael Cox
Cloth Girl by Marilyn Heward Mills
The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney (winner)
The Amnesia Clinic by James Scudamore

Costa Novel Award

Restless by William Boyd (winner)
Saving Caravaggio by Neil Griffiths
A Spot of Bother by Mark Haddon
Black Swan Green by David Mitchell

Costa Biography Award

George Mackay Brown – The Life by Maggie Fergusson
Donne: A Reformed Soul by John Stubbs
Nabeel's Song by Jo Tatchell
Keeping Mum by Brian Thompson (winner)

Costa Poetry Award

The Book of Blood by Vicki Feaver
Letter to Patience by John Haynes (winner)
District & Circle by Seamus Heaney
Dear Room by Hugo Williams

Costa Children's Book Award

Clay by David Almond
The Diamond of Drury Lane by Julia Golding
Set in Stone by Linda Newbery (winner)
Just in Case by Meg Rosoff

2005**Whitbread First Novel Award**

The Harmony Silk Factory by Tash Aw (winner)
26a by Diana Evans
The Short Day Dying by Peter Hobbs
Gem Squash Tokoloshe by Rachel Zadok

Whitbread Novel Award

A Long Way Down by Nick Hornby
Shalimar the Clown by Salman Rushdie
The accidental by Ali Smith (winner)
The Ballad of Lee Cotton by Christopher Wilson

Whitbread Biography Award

Haw-Haw: The Tragedy of William and Margaret Joyce by Nigel Farndale
Nature Cure by Richard Mabey
Stuart: A Life Backwards by Alexander Masters
Matisse: The Master by Hilary Spurling (winner)

Whitbread Poetry Award

Legion by David Harsent
Cold Calls by Christopher Logue (winner)
Lucky Day by Richard Price
Marabou by Jane Yeh

Whitbread Children's Book Award

Framed by Frank Cottrell Boyce
The White Darkness by Geraldine McCaughrean
Permanent Rose by Hilary McKay
The New Policeman by Kate Thompson (winner)

2004**Whitbread First Novel Award**

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell by Susanna Clarke
The Land as Viewed from the Sea by Richard Collins
Eve Green by Susan Fletcher (winner)
The Maze by Panos Karnezis

Whitbread Novel Award

Case Histories by Kate Atkinson
Birds Without Wings by Louis de Bernières
The Line of Beauty by Alan Hollinghurst
Small Island by Andrea Levy (winner)

Whitbread Biography Award

My Heart is my Own: The Life of Mary Queen of Scots by John Guy (winner)
Jabez: The Rise and Fall of a Victorian Rogue by David McKie
Stephen Spender by John Sutherland
VS Pritchett: A Life by Jeremy Treglown

Whitbread Poetry Award

These Days by Leontia Flynn
Ghosts by John Fuller
Ground Water by Matthew Hollis
Corpus by Michael Symmons Roberts (winner)

Whitbread Children's Book Award

Looking for JJ by Anne Cassidy
Not the End of the World by Geraldine McCaughrean (winner)
How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff
No Shame, No Fear by Ann Turnbull

2003**Whitbread First Novel Award**

Buddha Da by Anne Donovan
An Evening of Long Goodbyes by Paul Murray
Vernon God Little by DBC Pierre (winner)
An Empty Room by Talitha Stevenson

Whitbread Novel Award

The Lucky Ones by Rachel Cusk
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (winner)
Heligoland by Shena Mackay
Frankie & Stankie by Barbara Trapido

Whitbread Biography Award

Margaret Thatcher – Volume Two: The Iron Lady by John Campbell
Martha Gellhorn by Caroline Moorehead
Orwell: The Life by DJ Taylor (winner)
Beautiful Shadow: A Life of Patricia Highsmith by Andrew Wilson

Whitbread Poetry Award

Minsk by Lavinia Greenlaw
Ink Stone by Jamie McKendrick
Landing Light by Don Paterson (winner)
Hard Water by Jean Sprackland

Whitbread Children's Book Award

The Fire-Eaters by David Almond (winner)
The Oracle by Catherine Fisher
Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo
Naked Without a Hat by Jeanne Willis

2002**Whitbread First Novel Award**

The End of My Tether by Neil Astley
Homage to a Firing Squad by Tariq Goddard
The Impressionist by Hari Kunzru
The Song of Names by Norman Lebrecht (winner)

Whitbread Novel Award

White Lightning by Justin Cartwright
Spies by Michael Frayn (winner)
Rumours of a Hurricane by Tim Lott
The Story of Lucy Gault by William Trevor

Whitbread Biography Award

Anthony Blunt: His Lives by Miranda Carter
Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA by Brenda Maddox
The Real Mrs Miniver by Ysenda Maxtone Graham
Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self by Claire Tomalin (winner)

Whitbread Poetry Award

Something for the Ghosts by David Constantine
The Ice Age by Paul Farley (winner)
Voodoo Shop by Ruth Padel
The Beautiful Lie by Sheenagh Pugh

Whitbread Children's Book Award

Exodus by Julie Bertagna
Saffy's Angel by Hilary McKay (winner)
Sorceress by Celia Rees
Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

2001**Whitbread First Novel Award**

The Oversight by Will Eaves
Something Like a House by Sid Smith (winner)
Burning worm by Carl Tighe
August by Gerard Woodward

Whitbread Novel Award

The Siege by Helen Dunmore
Atonement by Ian McEwan
Oxygen by Andrew Miller
Twelve Bar Blues by Patrick Neate (winner)

Whitbread Biography Award

A View of Delft by Anthony Bailey
Boswell's Presumptuous Task by Adam Sisman
Selkirk's Island by Diana Souhami (winner)
Flaubert: A Life by Geoffrey Wall

Whitbread Poetry Award

The Age of Cardboard and String by Charles Boyle
If I Don't Know by Wendy Cope
Bunny by Selima Hill (winner)
Panoramic Lounge-Bar by John Stammers

Whitbread Children's Book Award

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson
The Lady and the Squire by Terry Jones
The Amber Spyglass by Philip Pullman (winner)

2000**Whitbread First Novel Award**

Under The Skin by Michel Faber
Danny Boy by Jo-Ann Goodwin
Born Free by Laura Hird
White Teeth by Zadie Smith (winner)

Whitbread Novel Award

Fred & Edie by Jill Dawson
What Are You Like? by Anne Enright
When We Were Orphans by Kazuo Ishiguro
English Passengers by Matthew Kneale (winner)
How the Dead Live by Will Self

Whitbread Biography Award

Fanny Burney by Claire Harman
John Ruskin: The Later Years by Tim Hilton
Hitler: 1936-45 Nemesis by Ian Kershaw
Bad Blood: A Memoir by Lorna Sage (winner)

Whitbread Poetry Award

The Asylum Dance by John Burnside (winner)
Conjure by Michael Donaghy
Collected Poems by RF Langley
Granny Scarecrow by Anne Stevenson
Floods by Maurice Riordan

Whitbread Children's Book Award

Heaven Eyes by David Almond
The Seeing Stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland
Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin (winner)
Troy by Adele Geras

1999**Whitbread First Novel Award**

The Great Ideas by Suzanne Cleminshaw
White City Blue by Tim Lott (winner)
Our Fathers by Andrew O'Hagan
A Foreign Country by Francine Stock

Whitbread Novel Award

Being Dead by Jim Crace
Headlong by Michael Frayn
Chocolat by Joanne Harris
Music and Silence by Rose Tremain (winner)

Whitbread Biography Award

Berlioz Volume Two: Servitude and Greatness by David Cairns (winner)
Bruce Chatwin by Nicholas Shakespeare
Matisse by Hilary Spurling

Whitbread Poetry Award

Beowulf by Seamus Heaney (winner)
Approximately Nowhere by Michael Hofmann
Alcestis by Ted Hughes

The Eyes by Don Paterson

Whitbread Children's Book Award

Meeting Midnight by Carol Ann Duffy
Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J K Rowling (winner)
The Illustrated Mum by Jacqueline Wilson

1998

Whitbread First Novel Award

The Last King of Scotland by Giles Foden (winner)
Shopping by Gavin Kramer
The Restraint of Beasts by Magnus Mills
Jelly Roll by Luke Sutherland

Whitbread Novel Award

the catastrophist by Ronan Bennett
Leading the Cheers by Justin Cartwright (winner)
The Travelling Hornplayer by Barbara Trapido

Whitbread Biography Award

Iris, A memoir of Iris Murdoch by John Bayley
Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire by Amanda Foreman (winner)
Hitler, Volume One: Hubris 1889 – 1936 by Ian Kershaw

Whitbread Poetry Award

The Wasting Game by Philip Gross
Birthday Letters by Ted Hughes (winner)
The Boy from the Chemist is Here to See you by Paul Farley

Whitbread Children's Book Award

Skellig by David Almond (winner)
Sweet Clarinet by James Riordan
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J K Rowling
Abomination by Robert Swindells

1997

Whitbread First Novel Award

One Day as a Tiger by Anne Haverty
The Underground Man by Mick Jackson
The Ventriloquist's Tale by Pauline Melville (winner)
Beach Boy by Ardashir Vakil
Eclipse of the Sun by Phil Whitaker

Whitbread Novel Award

The Untouchable by John Banville
Quarantine by Jim Crace (winner)
Grace Notes by Bernard MacLaverty
Enduring Love by Ian McEwan
Bleeding London by Geoff Nicholson

Whitbread Biography Award

Violet: The Life and Loves of Violet Gordon Woodhouse by Jessica Douglas-Home
Victor Hugo by Graham Robb (winner)
Queen of Whale Cay by Kate Summerscale
Citizen Lord by Stella Tillyard
Hogarth, A Life and a World by Jenny Uglow

Whitbread Poetry Award

CloudCuckooLand by Simon Armitage
Sugar-Paper blue by Ruth Fainlight
Violet by Selima Hill

Tales from Ovid by Ted Hughes (winner)
Assembling a Ghost by Peter Redgrove

Whitbread Children's Book Award

Junk by Melvin Burgess
Chasing Redbird by Sharon Creech
Aquila by Andrew Norriss (winner)
Harry and the Wrinklies by Alan Temperley

1996

Whitbread First Novel Award

Reading In the Dark by Seamus Deane
The Arizona Game by Georgina Hammick
The Debt to Pleasure by John Lanchester (winner)
Mother of Pearl by Mary Morrissy

Whitbread Novel Award

Every Man for Himself by Beryl Bainbridge (winner)
Mr Clive & Mr Page by Neil Bartlett
Cocaine Nights by JG Ballard
Asylum by Patrick McGrath
Last Orders by Graham Swift
Worst Fears by Fay Weldon

Whitbread Biography Award

George Eliot: A Life by Rosemary Ashton
The Unruly Queen: The Life of Queen Caroline by Flora Fraser
Damned to Fame: The Life of Samuel Beckett by James Knowlson
Thomas Cranmer: A Life by Diarmaid MacCulloch (winner)

Whitbread Poetry Award

Safe As Houses by UA Fanthorpe
The Spirit Level by Seamus Heaney (winner)
The Thing in the Gap-Stone Stile by Alice Oswald
Expanded Universes by Christopher Reid
The Wound-dresser's Dream by Pauline Stainer

Whitbread Children's Book Award

The Tulip Touch by Anne Fine (winner)
The Trokeville Way by Russell Hoban
Plundering Paradise by Geraldine McCaughrean
Clockwork or All Wound Up by Philip Pullman

1995

Whitbread First Novel Award

Behind the Scenes at the Museum by Kate Atkinson (winner)
Gagarin & I by Stephen Blanchard
Morvern Callar by Alan Warner

Whitbread Novel Award

The Information by Martin Amis
The Ghost Road by Pat Barker
In Every Face I Meet by Justin Cartwright
The Unconsoled by Kazuo Ishiguro
The Moor's Last Sigh by Salman Rushdie (winner)

Whitbread Biography Award

Vera Brittain – A Life by Paul Berry and Mark Bostridge
Gladstone by Roy Jenkins (winner)
Albert Speer: His Battle with Truth by Gitta Sereny
Terence Rattigan by Geoffrey Wansell

Whitbread Poetry Award

The Dead Sea Poems by Simon Armitage

The Shadow of Hiroshima and other film/poems by Tony Harrison

Rest for the Wicked by Glyn Maxwell

Gunpowder by Bernard O'Donoghue (winner)

Whitbread Children's Book Award

The Parsley Parcel by Elizabeth Arnold

The Wreck of the Zanzibar by Michael Morpurgo (winner)

Kasper in the Glitter by Philip Ridley